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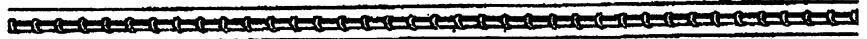
Six months have passed since I became your President. It has been a happy term for me. I thank the officers, the committee chairman and all of you for your enthusiastic support.

With the very severe winter over, and lovely weather ahead we look forward to our spring and summer meetings. The plans made by the Program Committee are interesting and varied and I anticipate seeing many of our family who cannot get out in cold or stormy weather. So check your dates and join us.

To our new members we extend a hearty welcome to the Family, and to our bereaved members most sincere sympathy.

Cordially,

FLORENCE JOSLIN GALLUP
President



BETSY WILLIAMS'S COTTAGE

To those who dwell in these Plantations, the little red, gambrel-roof cottage in Roger Williams Park is one of the most attractive spots in Providence, especially in Maytime when the great wistaria vine which grows at its side drapes it in purple blossoms. The cottage is named for the lady who made Roger Williams Park possible, and to her we owe a debt of gratitude for one of the finest parks in this fair land.

Betsy Williams was a spinster and lived in the cottage with her elder sister Rhoda. It was after Rhoda's death that a real estate developer, Joseph J. Cooke, broached the subject to Betsy of leaving the ancestral acres to Providence for a public park. The hundred acre farm was perfect for the purpose. It had been in the possession of the family since Roger Williams' day. His son Joseph began to farm it there in 1662, from him it passed to his son James, to his son Nathaniel, and then to his son James, Betsy's father. That makes her five generations removed from the founder. There was no dearth of Williams cousins, but none close enough for her to feel concern about, and the idea of establishing a memorial to her distinguished ancestor appealed. The old Williams acreage was just farmland in open country, not highly tax valued. The cottage was old—built about 1775 by Nathaniel for his son James—and not worth much. Mr. Cooke's suggestion kindled a lively spark.

Betsy's will was drawn a couple of months before her death. She left the farm to the city to be maintained as a public reservation to be called something embodying the founder's name. The park area, enlarged by condemnation, purchase and gift, is now more than four and one-half times what Betsy left in 1871. About the only thing as it was then is the external shell of the Betsy Williams cottage. That remains the same in general outline. The internal arrangement is identical also, but the handsome landscape paper, the hardwood floor in the kitchen and other details are different. It has been preserved in good taste, nevertheless. It's substantially a five room bungalow, Rhode Island type, (built about a central chimney with open fireplaces, a narrow front entry and a winding stair). Upstairs there was a big bare attic which has been sheathed. Probably Betsy had a lilac bush at the back door. There must have been a barn and hen house and a pile of firewood in the back dooryard. And occasionally a farmer, driving down the Greenwich road to Providence town, waving a friendly greeting.

It is surprising the number of visitors to the cottage who nurse the vague idea that Betsy was Roger's daughter. She passed her last years and died in a house on Pontiac Avenue (since torn down) near the Cranston line. She lived to be 81 years and 5 months. It is said she was eccentric in her latter years, but she is also remembered by those who knew her as a friendly sort of person who seemed glad to welcome young callers. She was small, thin and sprightly and in her youth noted for her lovely red hair, of the exact shade known as Titian. When her neighbors heard just after Thanksgiving Day, 1871, that she had gone, they felt a sense of personal loss.

Condensed and adapted from an article by J. Earl Clauson, published in the Providence Evening Bulletin under the title "These Plantations".

Resume of Meetings — October 1960 • March 1961

October 6th, 8:00 P.M.—“Welcome to Alaska”—Miss Alice W. Roe and her father Mr. Percy Roe showed us the colored movies of their Alaskan trip. The pictures were lovely and her commentary very educational. We thank them for sharing their trip with us.

November 3rd, 2:00 P.M.—“You and Your Government”—Mrs. James Hedges from The Rhode Island League of Women Voters explained how to use the-voting machines and clarified the meaning of the Referenda on the election ballots.

January 1st, 2:00 P.M.—Our Christmas Party had to be cancelled because of our snow-filled streets, but Mr. and Mrs. Clifford W. Brown graciously opened their home to us on New Year's day, and although the driving was still difficult fifty attended. All enjoyed a fine musical program under the direction of Mrs. Clifton L. Poole, soloist, assisted by Rev. and Mrs. Gerald Beals, Mrs. Lester MacNeil, and Mr. Poole. Mrs. Harry D. Bedson was in charge of tea table. Mrs. William Jerrett and Mrs. George Davis poured. It was a lovely afternoon and again we are indebted to Mr. and Mrs. Brown.

January 5th, 2:00 P.M.—“Streets of the City”—Interesting facts about the early settlement of our state and naming of our streets written by Miss Florence Simister, and read by our members made a most interesting program. Our thanks to Miss Simister.

February 2nd, 2:00 P.M.—“Climbing the Family Tree”—Delivered by Mrs. Harold P. Williams—was an explanation of how to go about looking up one's geneology. This paper showed a lot of research by Mrs. Williams and we are grateful to her.

March 2nd, 2:00 P.M.—Mr. Harold A. Allen's subject—“You and Your Handwriting” was fascinating and revealing.

In Memoriam

Mr. Lester Barton Wells	November	1959
Mrs. Maude E. Tyrrel	October	28, 1960
Mrs. Horace F. Perkins	November	1, 1960
Mrs. Kendall W. Bogart	November	5, 1960
Miss Clara M. Tallman	November	5, 1960
Mrs. Albert E. Hayes, Sr.	January	31, 1961
Miss Edith F. Winsor	March	2, 1961

Mrs. Horace F. Perkins was our Honorary President and though not able to attend meetings was keenly interested in everything pertaining to the "family."

"Every day the Master calleth
Someone to eternal rest
And the heart though filled with anguish
Can but say, He knoweth best."

New Members Since September 1960

BILLINGE, MRS. ELMER (Lillian Barrett) 745-63rd Ave. South, St. Petersburg 5, Florida	(DANIEL)
BROWN, MR. JOHN NICHOLAS 357 Benefit Street, Providence, R. I.	(DANIEL)
HARRIS, MISS LOUISE 15 Jay Street, Rumford 16, R. I.	(MERCY WATERMAN)
HAMILTON, MRS. CLYDE E. (Jessie B. Williams) 685 Highview Avenue, Glen Ellyn, Illinois	(DANIEL)
HEENAN, MR. THOMAS WILLIAMS 685 Highview Avenue, Glen Ellyn, Illinois	(DANIEL)
SAUNDERS, MR. RICHARD ELSTER 1 Grassy Plain Road, Barrington, R. I.	(MERCY WATERMAN)
SHERMAN, MRS. JOHN (Helen Barrett) 69 Leigh Street, Framingham, Mass.	(DANIEL)
WHIPPLE, ZACHARY T., JR. 165 Hunts Avenue, Pawtucket, R. I.	(DANIEL)
WOLCOTT, MRS. ROBERT EARLE (Ellen R. Reed) 80 Gridley Street, Bristol, Connecticut	(JOSEPH) 2 lines

NEW OFFICERS

Honorary President—Mrs. Florence M. Bassett
Honorary Vice President—Dr. Arthur H. Potter